

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Protection of Routes to Accommodate the Transportation of Oversize Loads

**Policy  
Number**

J-35

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**Purpose**

1. To assist in maintaining a system of designated routes to accommodate the transportation of oversize loads.
2. To assure that new permanent obstacles to the transportation of oversize loads will not be constructed unless the Board of Supervisors makes a determination that such construction would be in the best interest of the public.

**Background**

The manufacture and assembly of specialized equipment and commodities is vital to the economy of San Diego County. It is desired to economically maintain the ability to transport, within and through San Diego County via public highways, certain oversize loads. These include ships, propellers, large missiles, aircraft fuselage sections, transformers, houses and other large objects. In the past, certain features, such as road overpasses, pedestrian bridges, traffic signals, directional signs, trolley wires, and utility lines that can impair the economical transportation of oversize loads have been constructed without a proper review of the impact of such construction on the transportation of oversize loads.

Representatives of industries such as transportation, manufacturing, and those that use large objects have assisted in developing maps of the principal routes available for transporting oversize loads. The various jurisdictions in San Diego County have expressed a desire to cooperate in maintaining such designated routes throughout San Diego County for the transportation of oversize loads. The Regional Transportation Plan prepared by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) designates an Oversize Load Highway System for the San Diego region.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. The transportation of oversize loads along roads requires a minimum unobstructed cross-section 27 feet in width and 20 feet in height. Routes for special loads might require different clearances, for example, Special Routes for aircraft sections, wide beam boats, and heavy construction equipment require an unobstructed cross-section 27 feet in width and height clearances of up to 23 feet.
2. The designated routes for oversize loads shall be as delineated on Attachment A, Oversize Load Highway System Map, and Attachment B, Oversize Load Highway System Facilities Listing, for the Unincorporated Area of San Diego County.

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3. Proposals for construction of features that would create an obstacle to the transportation of oversize loads on the designated routes will be reviewed by the Director of Public Works. The Director will conduct an economic review of the costs and impacts of such construction. The Director will consult with the applicant and notify representatives of the industries transporting, manufacturing and using large objects and consult with them in considering costs, impacts and alternatives to any proposed obstacle. The Director of Public Works shall then prepare a report for consideration by the Board of Supervisors based on the findings of the review and consultation.
4. The Board of Supervisors will consider each proposal for construction of a permanent obstruction of a designated route in the unincorporated area of San Diego County and determine whether it is or is not in the best interest of the public for the County of San Diego to construct, or issue a permit for others to construct, the obstruction.. The County will not proceed with construction, or issue a permit for others to construct, any permanent obstacle to the transportation of oversize loads unless the Board of Supervisors makes a determination that such construction would be in the best interest of the public. In its review, the Board may also consider the provision of a bypass for oversize loads directly adjacent to the proposed obstruction, or an alternative oversize load route designation.
5. This policy does not commit the County to providing additional funds for protecting any route for transportation of oversize loads. It simply establishes a procedure for consideration of the impacts of proposed obstacles on designated routes.

Attachment A - Oversize Load Highway System Map

Attachment B - Oversize Load Highway Facilities Listing, Unincorporated Area of San Diego County

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-14.

Board Action

2-5-85 (11, 12)

3-22-88 (37)

6-15-93 (41)

7-14-99 (4)

06-23-04 (12)

12-09-08 (33)

CAO Reference

Department of Public Works